

S/N: 10/647,698

Atty Dkt No. GP-302475 / GM0328PUS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A vehicle comprising:

a frame including at least one structural frame member;

a body panel forming a first portion of the vehicle exterior surface; and

a metal bumper mounted with respect to said at least one structural frame member for receiving a load in the event of an impact to a portion of the vehicle periphery, the metal bumper including a one-piece inner panel and a one-piece outer panel operatively connected to the one-piece inner panel, wherein the metal bumper forms and forming a second portion of the vehicle exterior surface;

wherein at least a portion of the bumper is characterized by a curvature;

and

wherein the first portion and the second portion of the vehicle exterior surface are substantially contiguous.

2-3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein said at least one structural frame member includes two lower rails and two upper rails, and wherein the bumper is operatively connected to the two lower rails and the two upper rails such that the load received by the bumper is at least partially distributed to the two lower rails and the two upper rails.

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5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The vehicle of claim 54, wherein the bumper includes an upper bumper bar portion, a lower bumper bar portion, and a portion interconnecting the upper bumper bar portion and the lower bumper bar portion.

7. (original) The vehicle of claim 6, wherein the inner panel and the outer panel each at least partially define the upper bumper bar portion, the lower bumper bar portion, and the portion interconnecting the upper bumper bar portion and the lower bumper bar portion.

8. (currently amended) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein ~~the bumper includes an inner panel and an outer panel operatively connected to the inner panel such that the inner panel and the outer panel define a cavity therebetween.~~

9. (original) The vehicle of claim 8, wherein the inner panel is characterized by strengthening formations.

10. (original) The vehicle of claim 9, wherein the inner panel or the outer panel is formed using a process selected from the group consisting of quick plastic forming, superplastic forming and sheet hydroforming.

11. (previously presented) The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the bumper includes an integral tab defining a hole.

12. (currently amended) A vehicle bumper comprising: a first one-piece metal member defining a first generally horizontally-oriented channel, a second generally horizontally-oriented channel spaced a first distance apart from the first generally horizontally-oriented channel, a first generally vertically oriented channel interconnecting the first and second generally horizontally oriented channels, and a second generally

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vertically oriented channel spaced a second distance apart from the first generally vertically oriented channel and interconnecting the first and second generally horizontally oriented channels.

13. (previously presented) The vehicle bumper of claim 12, further comprising a second one-piece member closing the first and second generally horizontally oriented channels and the first and second generally vertically oriented channels.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) The vehicle bumper of claim 13, wherein the second one-piece member is characterized by strengthening formations.

16. (original) The vehicle bumper of claim 12, wherein the bumper is adapted to mount to a pair of upper rails and a pair of lower rails.

17. (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a vehicle bumper, the method comprising: subjecting a metal blank to fluid pressure to form a bumper having a shape characterized by a curvature.

18. (withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein said subjecting a metal blank to fluid pressure includes superplastically deforming the metal blank.

19. (withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein said subjecting a metal blank to fluid pressure includes deforming the metal blank using quick plastic forming.

20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein said subjecting a metal blank to fluid pressure includes sheet hydroforming the metal blank.

21. (currently amended) A vehicle comprising:

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two upper rails and two lower rails; and

a metal bumper mounted with respect to the two upper rails and the two lower rails for receiving a load in the event of an impact to the periphery of the vehicle, the bumper having an one-piece outer panel and an one-piece inner panel operatively connected to the one-piece outer panel and at least partially corrugated;

wherein the inner panel and the outer panel are characterized by a curvature that is the result of exposure to fluid pressure.